I. Attendance

Members Present: Senator Pustejovsky, Senator Gosselin, Senator Goldfield, President Sohn, Senator Vijayakumar, Speaker Aaron, Senator Salas, Senator Vargas, Senator Schurer, Senator Pandey, Co-Chair Brook, Senator Mahboob, Senator Finkelstein, Senator Low-Beinart, Senator McCormick, Senator Andrews

Members Absent: Senator Koontz

II. Acceptance of the Minutes from 4/15/18

Speaker Aaron: Are there any questions or comments on the minutes? Is there a motion to accept the minutes from 4/15/18?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of accepting the minutes? All opposed? All abstaining? The minutes are accepted.

12-0-1 [Senator Mahboob abstains]

III. Announcements

President Sohn: Thank you so much for all the work you’ve done on the minutes, they’ve been very helpful.

😊You’re welcome😊

Deputy Cowan: If you have not yet done so, please sign up for a one-hour time slot on Monday April 30th between 2:00 and 9:00 pm. Over 200 staff members will be coming with their families. We over-budgeted and had to negotiate down. Waybury Inn is not bringing as many staff members, so we need students need to help-out. We have opened this up to the rest of the student body, so please feel free to include this in any Senator emails. We need people to babysit 17 kids for two hours, so if you know someone or want to do it yourself, please let me know.

No one has sent in a video for the tribute. This is relatively easy to do and can also be done from your phone. Please do that and send it out to your constituents.

[Senator Low-Beinart enters.]

President Sohn: I think it would be great if everyone in this room submitted a video to set an example. I’m personally going to go to the students and ask if they want to submit a video from my phone. If everyone who is a senator in this room could please do that with at least five people, we would have a video made.
Senator Low-Beinart: I could set up a booth outside Proctor.

President Sohn: I was thinking about doing that as well. I was talking to my Cabinet about just having a location set and that not many students might come to it but having a booth outside a dining hall is a good idea.

Senator Pustejovsky: We should also try posting on Facebook so that people can do it privately. Our Senior Senator page still doesn’t have access to the Middlebury 2018 page.

Deputy Cowan: I can put it in the 2018 page.

Senator Schurer: [Addressing Senator Pustejovsky] The 2019 and 2018 groups were not created by anyone affiliated with Middlebury. Derek Ducet is working on getting us access to those groups.

President Sohn: For the upcoming Trustee visit, we talked about having Trustees in our dining halls. The idea is to have one SGA members with two to three Trustees to help with social anxiety. Some people from the cabinet volunteered to be a host. You would meet a couple Trustees at the dining hall entrance. Take them to get food and sit with other students that you may or may not know. The lunch will be May 11th from noon to 1:30 at the latest. Is anyone interested in being a host? You can choose which dining hall you want to go to.

[Senators Andrews and McCormick enter.]

Senator Pandey: Are they going to make really good food that day?

President Sohn: I think it will just be normal food to give them an authentic experience. Thank you for still showing up as we near the end of the school year. A reminder that another duty of a senator is to attend assigned cabinet committees. Moving forward, remember to include the topic of the week discussions in campus pulse.

I talked to the Board of Overseers in February about the divestment referendum. I will send the results to Dave Donahue and President Patton and will bring it up again at the Board of Overseers meeting in May. 79% were in favor so the referendum passed. There was a huge voter turn-out, it was even higher than the US elections turn-out.

Speaker Aaron: Thank you for putting check-ins online. It’s never too late to make a change. The earlier the change, the more likely people will read them which we can then discuss during Campus Pulse. Are there any questions or concerns about the new check-in system?

Senator Low-Beinart: To clarify, we put them online and then don’t talk about them during the meeting?

Speaker Aaron: Exactly. There is also an area for questions or responses to check-ins.
Senator Schurer: [Demonstrates how new check-in system works.]

President Sohn: Is there a specific time that you would like Senators to have those in by?

Senator Schurer: It can be discussed. Speaker Aaron mentioned that it would be better to have them in early so people have time to read them. Perhaps Saturday or Friday night.

Senator Mahboob: I don’t meet with my cabinet until Sunday, so I won’t be able to update mine until Sunday afternoon.

Co-Chair Brook: Since we won’t mention during meeting, I don’t think it should be necessary to read them before meeting. Perhaps people writing it before the meeting, reading during the meeting, and then following up in person would be good.

Speaker Aaron: Also, welcome to the newly elected SGA members.

IV. Community Council Check-in
Co-Chair Brook: Community Council is still working on restructuring. If you have any ideas, please keep them short. We are not considering taking groups from cabinet because it didn’t seem like part of our purpose. We are thinking about incorporating town hall meetings, more student input, wider audiences, and less meeting times into the discussions.

V. Campus Pulse
Senator Goldfield: I talked with a number of people about meal plans and received mostly positive feedback after five-minutes of explanation. It’s very difficult to get the message across quickly.

Co-Chair Brook: Regarding international students, I started working with the Study Abroad Office about ways which we can come up with a reflection period for when people return. That could help people who intend to study abroad. I’ve heard from a lot of international students that they don’t know how to reflect and deal with their emotions from their study abroad experience and how it differentiates with their experiences here.

Senator Low-Beinart: I got some really positive feedback on the mural. It’s such a tangible thing that makes a huge impact about public yart.

Senator Pustejovsky: [Addressing Senator Low-Beinart] People have reached out to me, so I’ve been handing out your email. Most of the people that reached out were first-years and I think it would be cool had to have some first-year momentum working on a tentative plan. A lot suggested first-year art in the stairwells of in dorms.

Senator Pandey: International students. I met with the head of the ISS Office Joani Taylor and Senator Schurer about increasing campus attention towards international students and increasing
their sense of belonging on campus. I was talking with Senator Schurer about possibly making some sort of international house. There could be offices where people could come and have these conversations and meet people.

President Sohn: I sent out an email about 24/7-hour library. I’m going to reach out to people that are part of the ad hoc committee to have a more in depth look at the data and then present it to Mike Roy and Baishakhi Taylor. [Shares preliminary data results.]

Chief Alam: We have discussed alternatives in past and the Academic Affairs Committee is working on getting Axinn open for 24/7 with key card access. That is one alternative to mitigate any negative impact of not having the library open 24/7.

VI. Old Business

a. Deputy Chief Cowan & President Sohn: Resolution in Support of Middlebury Students Against Gun Violence – Bill

Deputy Cowan: I appreciate the feedback. I have made some of the requested changes. There was a comment about the use of the word “respectful” in the last “that” statement. I did a lot of research on the statements of similar school and most had “respectful” or “peaceful.” I don’t think it will get past the school’s General Council if we don’t include a term like that. Are there any main concerns about this bill?

Senator McCormick: I think the main concern with this bill is that it’s making a political statement that I don’t think is the role of the SGA. We’re here to represent the students, not make widespread political points. Even though I agree with what the bill is saying, I don’t think this bill is what we should focus our time on.

Senator Goldfield: Thank you for changing the last “that” clause. If it were to pass it would make lot stronger. I want to reiterate that even though I very much agree with a lot of this bill, I do not think it’s the role of SGA to issue unactionable and polarizing political commentary.

Senator Low-Beinart: I have a similar opinion. I am very much in favor of the second part of the bill. I recommend the friendly amendment of splitting the bill, because I think they are two pretty different ideas.

President Sohn: [Addressing Senators Goldfield & McCormick] Does splitting change your opinion of the bill?

Senator Pustejovsky: What are we splitting?

Deputy Cowan: [Addressing Senator Low-Beinart] Just last “that” clause and not the other ones?

Senator Low-Beinart: I think there’s a separation between the first—
Chief Alam: To clarify, I think Senator Low-Beinart means that there are three “that” clauses and she is in favor of the third one but not first and second ones.

Senator Low-Beinart: Correct.

Co-Chair Brook: The role of the SGA is to represent students, that includes the ones that aren’t here yet. I think the third “that” clause applies to that, but the other two aren’t necessarily our job to say what the whole student body believes.

Senator Finkelstein: We’re just saying what SGA believes, right?

President Sohn: Right.

Senator Pustejovskey: This has happened where the SGA has made political statements. I’m not sure how I feel where we should go with this, but we got lots of backlash. Even if it’s what the SGA thinks, we got elected to represent what people think. People were very upset with the SGA. There’s the perception that the SGA isn’t as vocal on certain issues, so how do we mitigate that and provide support. I think amending the protest clause is important, along with a lot of the second bill. I think a lot of that is applicable and less of a political statement because of push for a psychologist and fundraising efforts. Those are actionable ways to change the community and are more of a statement than a standpoint.

President Sohn: If any guests want to add to the conversation, we can call on you.

Chief Alam: [Addressing Senator Pustejovskey] Last year during the Charles Murray, there was no statement from the SGA and there was immense backlash. It can be looked at in both ways.

Deputy Cowan: I understand where everyone is coming from. To reiterate Chief Alam, students have not been finding political support from higher levels of the government. Maybe if we make a change from the lower level, that might show for something. I have reached out to many students on this, and I’ve gotten no responses. This leads me to believe it’s not that controversial. I tried to communicate it, and no one has opposed it, so I feel more comfortable making this statement.

Senator Pandey: This could also be a way for the SGA to support people. I don’t think the first two clauses polarize anything, they just encourage students to think about things. There was another shooting in Tennessee today, these are the kinds of things we’re raising awareness for. We aren’t forcing people to believe anything, this just makes people more politically aware. I find this is okay.

Senator Low-Beinart: I agree that we should be aware and engaged, but this statement doesn’t do a lot tangibly. I would support this more if the political statement did something tangible, whereas I think this just makes a polarizing situation in the SGA. You could say you’re
supporting students, but there’s nothing tangibly beneficial. It could lead the SGA down a slippery slope towards not supporting all students.

Senator Finkelstein: I agree that tangible means would be good. People don’t think it’s the SGA’s place, but if everyone agrees with the ideas, then why not say it?

Speaker Aaron: Something that we could do is send a survey to the entire school with the bill and give students the individual chance to sign support. Then we could send it to the Administration and it wouldn’t put us in a political situation.

President Sohn: I think that’s a valid idea. I don’t think we should shy away because of the image we would give off. If our main goal is to support students and they think it would be stronger with the support of the SGA…

Speaker Aaron: Out of respect for Deputy Cowan and President Sohn, if you want to vote on this bill then we should vote. Then we could move on and discuss the second bill.

Deputy Cowan: One of the concerns is that a lot of people from the community have said they’d feel uncomfortable if one bill got passed without other.

Speaker Aaron: We can’t pass them together but can vote on them one right after the other.

Deputy Cowan: Can we talk about the second bill first.

[Conversation continues under “Resolution in Support of Action Against Systematic, Institutional Racism Resulting in Gun Violence.”]

President Sohn: Because there are two “that” clauses that have been met with hesitation, are there any friendly amendment to change the language?

Co-Chair Brook: I recommend a straw poll with the options being, “Keep only the third clause” and “Supporting the bill as a whole.”

Speaker Aaron: [Clarifies.] The first option would be asking the college to change its statement on the website. The second option is to state gun violence is a national issue and that the Middlebury SGA encourages students to be politically engaged.

Straw Poll
Keep only the third “that” clause: 9
Include all that clauses with edits: 4

Chief Alam: It looks like these two clauses will be struck. I want to make a point about the role of SGA as a political body with statements, using examples from peer institutions. The President
of Bowdoin gave a talk at a rally. The Co-Presidents of Colby organized a march against racial injustice. I don’t agree that the SGA can’t make political statements. I would be in favor of passing this bill in its entirety.

Senator Low-Beinart: When you say organized, was it organized under the name of SGA?

Chief Alam: In name of SGA.

President Sohn: I think the second “that” clause doesn’t show where the SGA stands politically, rather it encourages people to stay engaged in these matters. I would like to keep that clause and only strike the first clause. I would love to keep both of them, but the main thing is to get this passed.

Deputy Cowan: I would be fine with striking just one or both. I think it’s important that the statement about the Admissions Department goes along with the other one. Making political statements like this takes a lot of guts, so I can see how it might be a challenge for some people. I think if it’s something you believe in, you should stand up for it.

Senator Pandey: I don’t think this political statement is too polarizing. We’ve seen gun violence videos and it relates to so many lives. It’s not about SGA politically stating something to polarize, but just the SGA saying this will make many people feel a sense of belonging to this campus. My SGA is not the same as the federal government and supports me. It’s important to think deeper than just whether this is polarizing. Saying this might make people feel at home and be nice to include.

Co-Chair Brook: Senator Pandey’s comments make me re-read the actual wording. Really understanding the wording, saying that gun violence is a national issue, is different from saying that gun ownership is a national issue. I would be surprised if the Middlebury Community did not think that gun violence was something that needs to be addressed. I retract all statements I said earlier. I think we should all consider the political nature of the writing itself.

Speaker Aaron: I could see adding a “whereas” clause regarding the role of SGA. “Whereas the SGA does not see its role as representing political views of students, rather making changes that benefit students’ lives across the country and college.” I think that would speak more to students that disagree with the political statement. Friendly amendment.

Deputy Cowan: I’d be very open to that.

Senator Low-Beinart: I would be more in favor of that. Just having some recognition that we’ve discussed it and thought about it. Often times it doesn’t read as being against gun violence and I think including that would help students who don’t see that, because I believe the whole community is against gun violence.
Co-Chair Brook: [Addressing Senators Goldfield & McCormick] How would this “whereas” clause change your minds?

Senator Goldfield: You made a really convincing argument. I think a “whereas” clause definitely helps, but I’m still collecting my thoughts.

Senator McCormick: I don’t think the first two “that” clauses add anything actionable to this bill, which is the third “that” clause. They just create unnecessary discussion that won’t really change the core of this bill. I’m in favor of the third “that” clause.

Senator Vijayakumar: It doesn’t hurt the bill for the SGA to publicly state that gun violence “bla bla bla.”

Co-Chair Brook: I would like to refer to Senator Pandey’s point, that publicly stating something does have an impact. It is an actionable feeling to have someone speak out on your behalf.

President Sohn: Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: [Reads changes.] “Whereas the SGA does not represent the political views of all students, its members feel strongly in favor of making a statement regarding recent gun violence.”

President Sohn: Can you put that in the Slack?

Speaker Aaron: Yes.

Deputy Cowan: I would like to keep the first “that” statements if the bill will pass.

Senator Mahboob: About the second “that” clause, how important is it for the SGA to ask people to be politically aware? It’s not our role to tell people what to think. I see the point of the first “that” clause, but can someone elaborate?

Deputy Cowan: A lot of times, individuals who need to play a role in changing the conversation aren’t doing that. This connects back to the other resolution. Things won’t change unless the people who are intuitively and innately involved understand their actions. That was my goal in including this clause. In college you have the opportunity to interact with people from very different backgrounds and it’s a great place to learn that.

Chief Alam: Is the “whereas” clause in the bill now?

Deputy Cowan: That’s fine with me.
President Sohn: [Regarding changes happening at time.] I’m not sure about “statement,” but maybe “support.” Statements are usually attached to political views, so if someone read through that quickly…

Speaker Aaron: I think the last “that” clause is a statement and that’s what this bill is about.

Deputy Cowan: It’s not a statement the SGA is making.

President Sohn: Okay I see, I agree with what you’re saying. Instead of saying, “strongly in favor of making a statement,” perhaps put “it’s members feel strongly in favor of better supporting students regarding recent gun violence.” Does that read weird?

Speaker Aaron: Yes.

Senator Low-Beinart: The first “that” clause is a statement.

Speaker Aaron: The resolution is making a statement, that’s where that came from. Is there a motion to vote?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of voting? All opposed? All abstaining? Voting will commence.

15-0-1 [Senator Goldfield abstains]

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of passing this bill? All opposed? All abstaining? The bill is passed.

12-1-3 [Senator McCormick opposes; Senators Andrews, Goldfield, and Speaker Aaron abstain]

b. Deputy Chief Cowan & President Sohn: Resolution in Support of Action Against Systematic, Institutional Racism Resulting in Gun Violence – Bill

Deputy Cowan: I took out the part in the third “that” clause that identified the clinical psychologist as a “self-identifying black individual.” I changed it to “someone with personal experience in working with diverse committees” to stay within our legal limits.

In the next “that” clause there is a still a list of four organizations. I am willing to get rid of the list, but I wanted to get thoughts first.

Senator McCormick: I don’t see this as part of our job. I’m especially uncomfortable with this highlighted section. I don’t think it’s the role of the SGA to pick and choose which outside organizations we support. There are a lot of worthy causes and I don’t think we should be
responsible for fundraising or looking at specific ways to intervene. I’m not against supporting other peoples’ fundraising efforts, but it’s not our jobs to fundraise ourselves.

Senator Pustejovsky: There are a lot of separate projects in a couple of the bills. I still stand behind the section about the clinical psychologist, as well as the speaker section. These are things SGA has done, recommending changes to various systems. Senator McCormick has a valid point about fundraising and who we direct our money towards. I think we could still include it without the list. We could also say that the SGA supports a fundraising effort, since there are already people who want to be active in this. Something a lot of bodies on campus struggle with is co-opting movements. Are we just sideline support to help behind the scenes? We could be the administrative connection.

Deputy Cowan: Thank you. I would be okay with scratching that clause. There were students from cultural organizations who specifically wanted something monetary to be included. I don’t think this is co-opting since people came and directly asked this to be an SGA event. I think changing that clause or getting rid of it completely is something I’m uncomfortable with.

President Sohn: What if we changed the word “organized” to “supports?”

Chief Alam: I suggest we conduct a straw poll on whether people want to change or strike the clause.

Senator Gosselin: [Addressing Deputy Cowan] An idea that was brought up in Community Council was divesting from gun companies. Did you look into that or consider?

Deputy Cowan: Yes, and that turned out to be even more controversial. I think it would require a lot more communication with other people.

Speaker Aaron: I would like to point out it has been 18 minutes out of our allocated 20 minutes. If you have something to say speak up now as we are running out of time.

President Sohn: Can we do the straw poll?

**Straw Poll**
Strike the highlighted clause: 8
Edit the highlighted clause: 5

Speaker Aaron: The clause is striked.

Deputy Cowan: I would feel comfortable voting on these back to back.

Speaker Aaron: Is there a motion to vote?
Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of voting? All opposed? All abstaining? Voting will commence.

9-3-4 [Senator Pustejovsky, President Sohn, and Co-Chair Brook oppose; Senators Goldfield, Gosselin, Schurer, and Vijayakumar abstain]

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of passing the bill? All opposed? All abstaining? The bill has passed.

10-1-5 [Senator McCormick opposed; Senators Schurer, Goldfield, Low-Beinart, Andrews, and Speaker Aaron abstain]

[Conversation picks back up under “Resolution in Support of Middlebury Students Against Gun Violence.”]

c. Senator Pandey: Proposal for Increase of Student Wellbeing – Bill

Senator Pandey: I took out some things from the proposal based on the survey results. The idea of this bill is to think about other parts of the community, especially the custodial staff. A lot of these things were part of my platform when I ran for Senator.

Senator Pustejovsky: A lot of this has merit. Although the fruit and nut offerings and the Sauté Station are things Dan Detora will probably be open to as a suggestion. I don’t think we need a bill, you could just email him if you want these things. The new spices in the dining hall are just from us asking for them, so I think he’d be very open.

Senator Pandey: I was the one who asked for the spices. I wanted to bring it forward formally with student feedback that supports it. Spices were low stake, but a Sauté Station is a bigger stake. Having it formally brought forward forces them to think of ways to make it happen.

Senator Pustejovsky: Friendly amendment to organize all the food things under one “that” clause. We’re suggesting a lot of really different but important things here.

Speaker Aaron: I’m curious about the financing of different propositions in this bill. The food and library aspects. Did you speak to Mike Roy and Dan Detora about the possibilities of funding these and if it would be at the expense of something else. Are you hoping to spend SGA money on it?

Senator Pandey: I’m waiting for a response from Dan. I did talk to the Director of Architecture and President Patton about resource and relax spaces, they seemed open to it. I don’t know if we should be discussing finances now, that can be saved for later. I don’t think the SGA can do all
this, but Dining Services did save a lot of money and will save even more with the new “To-go” boxes.

President Sohn: Thanks for the research on this bill. About the custodial staff, it might be valid for the SGA to recommend, but I think it’s more of a Community Council matter. Changes to the Middlebury food offerings is an initiative Senator Schurer is working on based on feedback from first-years. I suggest talking with Senator Schurer and Co-Chair Brook.

Chief Alam: Is everyone okay with the structural changes?

Speaker Aaron: The changes you made are categorizing?

Chief Alam: Yes.

Co-Chair Brook: About the “that” clause regarding custodial staff lunches, because there is no source of funding through this resolution it should be a Community Council recommendation. That way it asks Old Chapel for funding. Friendly amendment to strike that and I can put it through as a recommendation next meeting.

Senator Pandey: That’s fine. President Patton mentioned to me that she is interested in working with her summer funds. I wasn’t sure how serious she was about it, so I’m not sure how much weight to put on that.

Co-Chair Brook: I can circulate numbers for the library, but there is no funding available for that. If you were considering that as a funding source, they are working on a 2% budget decrease every year.

President Sohn: I believe that’s correct. I know earlier in the year, Mike Roy spoke with the SGA about answers for structuring the library. If there is a way to substitute this for the current initiative, then it is possible.

Senator Pandey: This won’t have a fixed cost. It would just be some pillows since the space is already there. Libraries are also in the stage to digitalize their books.

Senator Low-Beinart: Just to clarify, President Patton is interested in the relaxation space idea. When I talked to her, she reaffirmed that she would be capable of providing funds.

Senator Pandey: She was even interested in adding fountains.

Senator Goldfield: I think this is a great idea and would like to work with Senator Pandey on this. Later will be discussing bylaw and constitutional changes. I think more committees should be taking minutes so that we know what’s going on, including SGAs of the future. I don’t know
if you want to keep the clause about the Dining Committee keeping minutes or add it to the bylaws.

Senator Pandey: I’m not fixed on this way of making the change as long as it happens. It’s generally really difficult for people to voice their opinions to Dining. A way to consolidate that would be to find a way to voice opinions without having to go to meetings. Just something to think about.

Senator Schurer: Awesome job on the bill. I’m worried that it encompasses too much. If it passes, nothing will come of it since it requires so many different people and departments to be on the same page and work together. Even though most of the ideas are feasible, I think it might be a better idea to break it apart into smaller bills or other initiatives.

How do we avoid newly created relaxation spaces becoming more comfortable studying spaces?

Senator Pandey: That was the whole premise of having relaxation spaces in that Davis library. When people are stressed, they won’t go all the way to the AFC to relax. It has to be around places where people are more likely to be stressed so they can quickly go and relax. To avoid your concern, it all comes down to how the space is designed and how things are promoted in the space.

I have tried to go to Dining meetings. There is always an excuses or explanations. They’ll say okay but then it doesn’t happen. I have learned that it’s faster to do things top down than bottom up. If required, they will look for it to be consistent.

All of these relate to wellbeing, which is why they’re all in this bill. It’s a big topic, but the idea that these are very small things, is to provide different ways to make people feel better.

Speaker Aaron: You said you asked Dining to make a change, they said they would, and then they didn’t. Is that referring to making these specific changes?

Senator Pandey: Yes. I went to a lot of Dining Committee meetings. It was a meeting about how can we make these changes happen while being mindful of certain things. I think dining halls should focus more on consistency.

President Sohn: I recommend, if you haven’t had a chance, to speak with specific offices to see if a bill is required for these changes. We can ask the Student Health and Wellness Committee to help you as well if you are interested.

Senator Pustejovky: [Friendly amendment.] I suggest that we break this bill up into a couple things. I can see the validity in asking all of this in one bill. I would save the next part on the relaxation spaces until we figure out what we’re doing with the 24-hour libraries and add it to that bill. Regarding the amount of time with assignments and extensions, I suggest shifting that to the Academic Affairs Committee. I think the food and extensions, while under the holistic idea of well-being, I don’t want it to not be accomplished.
Motion to table.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? The bill is tabled.

15-0-1 [Senator Finkelstein abstains]

VII. New Business
   a. Bylaws Amendments – Bill & Discussion

President Sohn: I recently realized that we have to put this in the form of a bill. We have separate bills, but we don’t have one collective bill. Is it okay to present bill next week, but look over the document with the revisions? Now would be a time for questions about specific revisions and make edits. Is that okay? [Unanimous yes.]

Senator Goldfield: I recommend that every senator who edited this to give a brief overview of the changes they made.

Senator Gosselin: Over course of a few conversations it became clear to me that the role of speaker is difficult. Especially when there is a bill being sponsored by the speaker. I thought it might be best to make the speaker an ongoing person.

Speaker Aaron: Are we just discussing these?

President Sohn: I think we were just going to do an overview with a spot for questions. Essentially, everyone should have already looked over this document.

Senator McCormick: I prefer to hear the changes from the senators since they’re all small changes. I want to know the intention behind them.

Speaker Aaron: I added, “should a sitting Feb Senator win re-election for an additional term, he/she/they may remain in current elected upon roles including Speaker and committee positions for the remainder of the academic year.”

Senator Pustejovsky: That contradicts the first bylaw. Senator Gosselin’s suggestion makes the Speaker position a non-voting member. Since Feb Senators are voting members they wouldn’t be able to hold the position of Speaker.

Senator Gosselin: I meant just the Speaker doesn’t vote.

Senator Pustejovsky: Which would mean that it couldn’t be a Senator, because a Senator votes.
Doug Adams: If we changed this it would actually be a constitutional amendment because it wouldn’t allow a Senator to represent their constituency.

Speaker Aaron: Can we do what Senator Gosselin wants to do and make the Speaker a Senator that’s non-voting?

Doug: All senators must be able to vote unless you change the constitution.

Senator Gosselin: That’s what I originally wanted to do, and then I was told to make it a bylaws instead.

President Sohn: This change improves the pay of SGA student paid positions. Doug Adams has had conversations about how it makes sense in terms of an advisor role. The current Director of Institutional Affairs has a much closer connection to the students who are in these positions. She has a better opportunity to monitor them and make sure they’re actually doing the time.

“Serves as a liaison between the SGA and Facilities Services Office” because there are many situations where that would be helpful to have that connection.

Senator Schurer: I’ve been talking to the Co-Directors of the Publicity Committee. We were considering re-naming it to Communications Committee. If that’s okay to add that now?

[Publicity Committee name changed to Communications Committee.]

President Sohn: The change I made was to add and update to the SGA website on a weekly basis.

[Director of Sexual Relationship and Respect.] In the past this committee was established and fell through for some reason. We were trying to this committee get up and going again. We weren’t sure if it was happening, but it will be.

[Student Liaison of SGA on Endowment Affairs.] Depending on how trustees vote on the structural change recommendation, we might have to replicate this model to all the committees in the Board of Trustees. Section 3 originally said “forum,” Senator Goldfield suggested having an email sent out to the student body instead, since forums haven’t been happening much.

Senator Goldfield: I stumbled across point C and didn’t know what it meant. Apparently, it means if a student causes severe damage at a party that costs a lot of money, they can ask the SGA to help them fund it. I asked Peter and he said we have nothing on reserves in our budget to fund this.

Co-Chair Brook: I was there when we voted on that. The purpose behind it was for people who had hosted a party and had other people attend where damages occurred, and the host didn’t have the money to pay for the damages.
Doug: It related to high damage costs associated with social functions to encourage more social functions to take place. It was the understanding that the fear of damage costs was one of the reasons students weren’t throwing parties.

Senator Goldfield: Should that money be in reserves?

Doug: It would come out of reserves.

Senator Low-Beinart: Would that mean that any individual who hosts a party can come to the SGA to pay for their party damages?

Senator McCormick: To ask to pay.

President Sohn: [Membership.] I changed the word “students” to “senators.” The Awards Committee is in charge of selecting Beverly and Lamberti awards for one faculty and one staff member. This is in regards to membership, and I changed the language to clarify it as senators. I also changed the language to make it more applicable.

Senator Pustejovsky: [First-Year Committee.] There is not a lot of support for class-wide activities until senior-year. We wanted to create committees for sophomore and junior classes just like the First-Year Committee. We think it would be very beneficial to get more people involved.

President Sohn: [Responsibilities of the Finance Committee.] Originally this said there had to be a change each year to the Student Activities Fee (SAF). It looks like there won’t be change this year. Peter will come in and talk about that when we talk about the SGA budget. I didn’t want to force a change.

Senator Gosselin: [Regulations Under Student Organizations Oversight Committee.] We use Google Forms now so can review a lot of organizations very quickly. Since we are more efficient now, we can review more organizations per year.

President Sohn: [Communications Committee Description & Responsibilities.] “All records both digital and physical” was the only change. This year I suggested to each Co-director that they meet with their staff member. Some did it and some didn’t. I think it’s very crucial for the whole committee to meet with this person, because normally communications don’t follow through. This will be included in all committee sections.

Senator Pustejovsky: Can we add the minute keeping to all of those?

Speaker Aaron: Yes.
President Sohn: There might be a few differences for cabinet committees that are specific to their role. Everything past this is about medical leave.

Senator Goldfield: A lot of this was just clarifying the language. I added some points to outline what the structure should look like.

President Sohn: Emphasizing that this is the structure we used this year when we encountered a hearing. We received feedback and included that in this change.

[Award Committee.] This states who should be on the Awards Committee. The reason for this is because it’s traditionally been upperclassmen and requires a knowledge of faculty and staff in the community.

Doug: Sometimes for certain award, the structure is established by the donor.

Speaker Aaron: Between now and next week we will have a Google Document so that people can comment, so keep your eyes peeled.

President Sohn: I have a document that I will share so people can edit it.

Senator Goldfield: Clarification, questions will be during the week and not now?

Speaker Aaron: Yes. Is there a motion to table?

Motion.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of tabling? All opposed? All abstaining? It is tabled.

16-0-0

b. Formation of SLSEA Selection Committee – Discussion

President Sohn: The SLSEA is the Student Liaison to the Student Endowment Affairs. One of SGA’s responsibilities is to choose the next SLSEA. I sent out an application to the student body and received a few responses. Please encourage people to apply. We need members of the Senate to be part of the Selection Committee. The people on this committee go through the applications, select a few applicants, and then the candidates come to the next Senate meeting to present their case. Right after the SGA votes on who the next SLSEA will be.

[Senators McCormick, Gosselin, Vijayakumar, and Goldfield volunteer.]
c.  **Topic of the Week Selection – Discussion & Vote**

Chief Alam: Given Staff Appreciation Day and the bill about increasing opportunities and resources for staff, we should talk about staff members and how students can support.

President Sohn: Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: Our topic is student interaction with staff.

President Sohn: Also, just increasing student awareness about Staff Appreciation Day.

Senator Pustejovsky: I’m wondering if the Student Activities Office could start doing graduation cords for people that were board members of clubs. Do people think that’s a cool idea? I’ve reached out to the people who would make that decision and the idea is just circulating around, I just wanted to pitch that here too. I was thinking along the lines of a tradition.

Co-Chair Brook: One of my groups does that and it’s something we like. We make our own cords.

Senator Pustejovsky: I think it’s a really important way to be visible.

Senator McCormick: Does this include athletics as well?

Senator Pustejovsky: It would be clubs. The Student Activities Office doesn’t have funds for athletics. It would be an interesting thing to bring up for captains of sports. I just wanted feedback.

Senator Pandey: [Addressing Senator Pustejovsky] Could we get cords for SGA?

Senator Pustejovsky: I think stoles for the SGA would be cool, but I’d rather start with club recognition.

VIII.  **Adjournment**

Senator Andrews: Motion to adjourn.

Seconded.

Speaker Aaron: All in favor of adjourning? All opposed? All abstaining? We are adjourned.

16-0-0

Meeting ends at 8:51